

Today, Americans have the unhindered ability to view their programming of choice. Whether viewed over-the-air, through an analog or digital cable system, or through a satellite receiver, they can watch what they want, transfer it to a recordable medium (be it VCR, DVD, or the newer PVR systems like TiVo), and archive it. They can use this recording for purposes of time-shifting, or for viewing repeatedly at a later date, or they could even (if they use recordable media) share the recording with a friend or family member.

Existing copyright law prohibits the commercial use of these recordings, and payment mechanisms are in place already for the legitimate commercial use of recorded media.

The point here is that there is no "analog hole", nor is there a significant threat inherent to the conversion to digital broadcast streams from the current analog system. All

I, as a consumer, am looking for is the exact same ability to archive and time-shift broadcast media that I have today. No more, no less. It is merely a benefit that media will become digital in nature - it makes it easier for me to exercise my rights as a citizen and a consumer.

Restricting usage and recording rights will only slow the adoption of digital TV by the American consumer, and circumvention (legal or otherwise) systems will rapidly appear. The industry's proposals will only have the effect of making illegal the current, normal, expected behavior of millions of our citizens. This is just counter-productive.

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